

March 11, 2004

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 4

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT EXCEPT LEGISLATOR SMITH. CHAIRMAN HOLT PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. RESOLVED, that the following items are hereby received and filed.

Item Page -2003 (Intro. 3-1)
a. **McCARVILLE, LARSON & CHASE:** Urging the Designation of US Route 219 as a “Scenic Byway”.
(5-0) Legislator Smith absent. Chairman Holt present as Ex-Officio Member.

Item Page -2003 (Intro. 3-6)
b. **HOLT, MINORITY CAUCUS:** Budget Transfer – Road.
(5-0) Legislator Smith absent. Chairman Holt present as Ex-Officio Member.

Item Page -2003 (Comm. 10E-12)
c. **HOLT:** Copy of Letter to Chairman Swanick Re: Intro 10-10 (2002).
(5-0) Legislator Smith absent. Chairman Holt present as Ex-Officio Member.

Item Page -2003 (Comm. 10M-3)
d. **MAYOR MASIELLO:** Snow Removal Funds for City of Buffalo.
(5-0) Legislator Smith absent. Chairman Holt present as Ex-Officio Member.

Item Page -2003 (Intro. 22-5)
e. **HOLT & DEBENEDETTI:** County Snowplowing Assistance for the City of Buffalo.
(5-0) Legislator Smith absent. Chairman Holt present as Ex-Officio Member.

AS AMENDED

2. Item Page -2003 (Intro. 16-9)
HOLT, MARINELLI, SCHROEDER, DUSZA, DEBENEDETTI, SMITH, KUWIK & WROBLEWSKI

WHEREAS, Buffalo Niagara Enterprise (BNE) is the business supported non- profit affiliate of the Buffalo/Niagara Partnership, created in 1999 by the private sector with the support of local government and Erie County to promote and foster job growth in this area, and

WHEREAS, the business community pledged to provide \$27 million in funding over five years in support of the BNE, and

WHEREAS, the BNE's original goal was the creation of 50,000 new net jobs over five years and \$1 billion in new investment in our area, and

WHEREAS, in support of the BNE's goals, Erie County provided \$950,000 in funding to BNE in October 1999, followed by \$1 million in 2001, \$1 million in 2002, \$1 million in 2003 and \$1 million in 2004, making Erie County the single-largest investor in the BNE, and

WHEREAS, the current County Executive has made Erie County financial support of the BNE a major priority, and

WHEREAS, acknowledging the organization's attempt to meet its goals, the BNE's board of directors voted in October 2001 to readjust the job goals altogether, and

WHEREAS, in April 2002, the BNE also significantly altered its national advertising and marketing campaign, putting less money and resources into national marketing and advertising, and more money into working one-on-one with local companies to encourage them to create more local jobs and pursue additional investment in the area, and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA) also plays a major role in the economic development efforts in Erie County,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature requests the appearance of Randall Clark, Chairman of the BNE, and Thomas Kucharski, CEO and President of the BNE, and Kevin Clarke, Chairman of the ECIDA and Charles Webb, Executive Director of the ECIDA, at a future meeting of the Legislature's Economic Development Committee, in order that the Legislature may seek information, pose questions, and identify ways in which Erie County may be able to better work with the BNE and ECIDA in our mutual goal of creating new jobs, retaining existing jobs, and promoting new investment in Erie County, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body expresses its support for tangible steps and efforts to explore the possibility of consolidating local economic development agencies into one countywide industrial development agency as a means of furthering economic development and job retention and development in Erie County, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be submitted to Mr. Clark and Mr. Kucharski, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Webb, and to the Executive.

Fiscal Impact: Positive for Erie County's economic development.

(5-0) Legislator Smith absent. Chairman Holt present as Ex-Officio Member.

AS AMENDED

3. Item Page -2004 (Intro. 6-3)
McCARVILLE, CHASE, KUWIK, SCHROEDER, HOLT, SMITH, SWANICK & MARSHALL

WHEREAS, U.S. Route 219 is a major north/south traffic route from Erie County and the City of Buffalo to NYS Route 17/I-86 in Chautauqua County, and

WHEREAS, U.S. Route 219 travels through the Towns of West Seneca, Orchard Park, Boston, and Concord in Erie County and is widely referred to as the "Gateway to the Southtowns", and

WHEREAS, there has been a great deal of controversy in recent years over maintaining the current scenic and pastoral nature of U.S. Route 219, and

WHEREAS, many government officials, local residents, travelers, and commuters have expressed the sentiment that U.S. Route 219 retain its natural state, and

WHEREAS, the Towns of Orchard Park, Boston and Concord have formed an ad hoc Joint Task Force to investigate the feasibility of a "Scenic Byway" designation for U.S. Route 219, and

WHEREAS, in order to guarantee this natural character and gain "Scenic Byway" status, U.S. Route 219 must first be designated by New York State, through its Department of Transportation, as a "Scenic Byway" under the National Scenic Byways Program, and

WHEREAS, once so designated and accepted by the federal government, U.S. Route 219 would be eligible for various federal improvements and assistance, including road design and redesign, safety features, highway management planning, tourism marketing, recreation opportunities, and the protection of adjacent areas from development, and

WHEREAS, "Scenic Byway" status would continue to foster the ongoing development of central and sub themes for the unique driving experience that U.S. Route 219 provides people,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby commend the work of the ad hoc Joint Task Force formed by the Towns of Orchard Park, Boston and Concord to investigate the feasibility of a "Scenic Byway" designation for U.S. Route 219, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby urge New York State, through its Department of Transportation, to designate U.S. Route 219 as a "Scenic Byway" in order to guarantee its scenic and pastoral nature, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body does hereby further urge the federal government to accept this designation once granted by New York State and allow U.S. Route 219 to become eligible for various federal improvements under the National Scenic Byways Program, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Pataki, New York State Department of Transportation, County Executive Giambra, Town of West Seneca, Town of Orchard Park, Town of Boston, Town of Concord, Chautauqua County, President Bush and U.S. Department of Transportation.

Fiscal Impact: None for the Resolution

(5-0) Legislator Smith absent. Chairman Holt present as Ex-Officio Member.

MARK J. F. SCHROEDER
CHAIRMAN